

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/011516

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-7 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 4-7 as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-3 received by this Authority on 16.02.2006 with letter of 14.02.2006
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/3-3/3 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/011516

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-7</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-7</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-7</u>	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>1. This report makes reference to the following documents:</p> <p>D1: US 6 594 870 B1</p> <p>D3: FR 2 800 833 A</p>			
<p>2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1</p>			
<p>2.1 Document D1 is considered to constitute the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 and discloses (see column 3, lines 4-26; figure 1; the references in parentheses are to that document):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a device having the features of the preamble of claim 1, in which • the holding element ("fastener socket 15") has a plate-like zone with a rounded inner edge ("aperture 25") whose inner diameter is smaller than the outer diameter of the flanged washers, and which enclose the edges of the flanged washers. 			
<p>2.2 Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 differs from the known disclosure of D1 in that</p>			

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>the arms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are angled at least in sections in relation to the direct connection line between the holding element and the outer fastening zone, and• are set on the rounded inner edge. <p>2.3 The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).</p> <p>2.4 The technical effect of the differentiating features is that of causing the arms to lie entirely between the flanged washers, thus securing them against high tensile loads.</p> <p>The present invention can therefore be considered to address the problem of increasing the stability of the known device.</p> <p>2.5 None of the international search report citations suggests the solution proposed in claim 1 for this problem. The fastening device shown in document D3 has angled arms, but they lie entirely free (see page 2, line 29 - page 3, line 7; figures 3 and 4).</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 1 thus also involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).</p> <p>3. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-7</p> <p>Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1 and thus also meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements.</p>